

# *Organic Farming*

2002 CONTROL AND CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES IN ORGANIC FARMING.

*(Information)*

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**APPROVED BY:**  
*Secretary of State*

***J.Jerzy Pilarczyk***

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## **Control and certification procedures in organic farming.**

**Requirements to be met by the Certifying Bodies which are applying of authorization of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to carry out controls, issuing and withdraw the certificates of conformity in the organic farming.**

According to Article 2, point 5 and Article 16 of the Law on organic farming of March 16, 2001 (O.J. of the Republic of Poland No 38, item 542 of May 2, 2001) the MARD defines the detailed requirements of authorization granted by the Minister within the scope referred to below:

The authorizations to carry out control, issuing and withdraw the certificates of conformity are given on the basis of application of certifying body, by administrative decision.

I. Certifying Body might be authorized to carry out control, issuing and withdraw the certificates of conformity provided that:

1. It may be accredited by the national accrediting body in a range of carrying out a certification in organic farming, in accordance with the requirements of PN-EN 45011 "General Requirements in respect of the activities of the bodies dealing with product certification systems",
2. possess a plan of control including specific description of control activities and the examination procedures in respect of the objections raised to the control results,
3. it employs skilled staff with hands-on experience in farm production using organic methods,
4. it ensures objective and reliable conditions for control of operators.

II. The competent minister for agriculture and competent minister for agricultural markets keep the accredited Certifying Body register which in particular, includes the following:

1. the name and seat of the Body,
2. scope of accreditation,
3. identification number assigned to the Certifying Body in the recognition.

III. Register of the Certifying Bodies which are recognized, will be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".

### **Specific requirements which shall be taken into account in the examination of the application of a certifying body for authorization**

1. Scope of accreditation - whether the body has obtained accreditation by the Polish Accreditation Centre for the whole range of certification in organic farming production and processing or whether the range of the accreditation is only partial and includes for example plant, animal or horticultural production etc. or only processing.
2. Evaluation of the legal status of the body, which will guarantee independence and financial and legal responsibility toward controlled operators and toward system of states supervision.
3. Evaluation of the organizational structures which will ensure impartiality and reliability of activity.
4. Evaluation of activity of the body up to now in a range of the control of organic farms.
5. Evaluation of the accessibility of the authorized body for the operators (telephone and e-mail contact as well as direct contact – presence in the office during working hours), including appropriate office conditions of operators.
6. Evaluation of personnel, its number and skills (training, experience and practice) as well as ability to proper service of operators.
7. List of the institutions (reference laboratories) which will carry out tests on control samples taken by the accredited certifying body from the operators during control.
8. Organizational readiness to carry out at least 20% of additional unannounced controls:
  - a. of execution of the program of conversion to organic farming.
  - b. of conformity of the production or processing with the certificate of conformity which was obtained.

**Department of Plant Production**  
**Acting Director**  
**(-) Bożena Nowicka**